Mary Sheridan

18 November 2015

Savage Inequalities Reflection

EDC 102

After finishing Savage Inequalities, I don’t think I can even put into words how naïve I feel. I cannot even come close to relating to the conditions these students learn and live under. It is almost impossible for me to believe that cities in the United States are in worse condition than third world countries, how is that even possible in 2015? The book has left me with so many unanswered questions. For example, how are the state and federal governments allowing this to occur? What makes these particular kids unworthy of an education? Is it a poverty issue or a race issue? This book has made me want to go out and make a change, I want to help these kids, I want them to have the education I’ve been lucky enough to have. Coming from such a small and predominantly white town, I had no idea such race issues were still prevalent in today’s society. Almost everyone graduates from high school in my town and goes onto college besides maybe a handful of students who live on the “north side.” I did find it very interesting in the book that in East Saint Louis there were two tiers, the Bluffs and the Bottoms. This book has also brought me back to the controversial question of if it is the parents fault for kids’ low to no motivation or the conditions in which they are being forced to learn under. My guess would be that it is a combination of the two. I also have so much respect for the teachers of the students in these cities, but I also have that thought in the back of my head that there has to be something, *anything* they can do to make the situation better. I think the majority of the issues lie in the hands of the justice system, they need to get over the notion that if kids are born into an impoverished city, then there is no money or education that will change that, and actually help make a difference. They need to realize that the power really is in their hands and in order to see change they need to be the change. Lastly, I think it is absolutely heart wrenching that the students know they are poor, they know they are receiving a poorer education in regards to the “richer” schools. I just don’t think that is right. This book was very eye opening to me and I hope that someday in the near future things begin to look up for the students and teachers living in each of these districts.